

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2501

C O N F I D E N T I A L KAMPALA 1614

E. 9. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: YOUTH PARA

REF: A) STATE 070302 B) KAMPALA 1426

FOLLOWING IS NARRATIVE PORTION OF YOUTH PARA STUDY REQUESTED
REF A.

I. B. UGANDA HAS HAD A MILITARY- DOMINATED GPVERNMENT SINCE THE
COUP OF JANUARY 1971 BUT CIVILIANS, PRIMARILY THE SENIOR CIVIL
SERVANTS, STILL PLAY KEY ROLES. SINCE EARLY 1972, HOWEVER,
MORE AND MORE MILITARY MEN ARE BEING ASSIGNED TO MINISTRIES AND
OTHER GOVERNMENT POSITIONS. THUS THERE SHOULD BE AN EMPHASIS
IN THE YOUTH PROGRAM ON THE MILITARY AS IT IS BECOMING A
STEPPING STONE TO GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP. ADDITONALLY, THE
CIVILIAN MAKEUP OF THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CHANGING
RAPIDLY AND YOUNG BUREAUCRATS OFTEN FIND THEMSELVES IN KEY
POTITIONS. WE THEREFORE PLACE AN EQUAL WEIGHT IN THE YOUTH
PROGRAM ON THE CULTIVATION OF THESE POTENTIAL LEADERS. (20
PERCENT EACH)

BECAUSE OF THE WIDESPREAD ELIMINATION OF EDUCATED LEADERS
IN UGANDA, MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY, BOTH STUDENTS
AND FACULTY, AND THE MEDIA, AMY WELL BECOME THE FUTURE INTELLEC-
TUAL LEADERS IN UGANDA. WE THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT AS A COM-
BINED CATEGORY THEY SHOULD CONSITITUTE THE BULK OF OUR EFFORTS IN
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THE YOUTH PROGRAM. (COMBINED TOTAL OF 35 PERCENT)

WE ANTICIPATE THAT LEADERSHIP WILL ASSERT ITSELF IN EACH OF THE CATEGORIES OF THE CHURCH, LAE, BUSINESS, ARTS AND LETTERS, AND SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS, BUT THEIR INFLUENCE MAY BE LIMITED TO THEIR OWN IMMEDIATE PROFESSIONS. WE HAVE THEREFORE ASSIGNED A TOKEN 5 PERCENT TO EACH OF THESE CATEGORIES.

I. C.

1. THE SHORT TERM IMPACT ON US INTERESTS WILL MOST LIKELY COME FROM THE MILITARY. MILITARY PERSONNEL MAKE UP THE ONLY PRESENT ADVISORY COUNCIL IN THE GOVERNMENT, THE DEFENSE COUNCIL, AND MORE AND MORE ARE BEING ASSIGNED TO MINISTRIES, GIVEN BUSINESSES, OR OTHERWISE GIVEN POSITIONS OF INFLUENCE. THE LATEST PROPOSALS FOR REORGANIZATION OF THE GOVERNMENT CALL FOR A STATE SUPREME COUNCIL SECOND ONLY TO THE PRESIDENT IN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY. THE COUNCIL WILL HAVE A PREDOMINANTLY MILITARY COMPOSITION. AT LOWER LEVELS, PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATORS WOULD BE APPOINTED, MOST OF WHOM WOULD BE MILITARY OFFICERS.

2. THE IMPACT OF THE MILITARY ON US INTERESTS WOULD MOST LIKELY BE NEGATIVE. THE ARMED FORCES ARE SLOWLY BEING MUSLIMIZED AND ARE DEVELOPING STRONGER TIES WITH THE ARAB WORLD AT THE EXPENSE OF WESTERN INFLUENCE. ADDITIONALLY, MILITARY AID AND SUPPORT IS COMING ONLY FROM THE ARAB WORLD AND THE SOVIET UNION. IT IS, THEREFORE, MORE THAN LIKELY THAT THE MILITARY WILL SIDE WITH THEIR BENEFACTORS IN ANY ISSUES INVOLVING THE US EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY.

II. B

1. GIVEN THE CONSTANT TURNOVER OF LEADERS AND POTENTIAL LEADERS IN UGANDA, MAINTAINING OR DEVELOPING ACCESS TO, AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH, POTENTIALLY INFLUENTIAL YOUTH SHOULD BE THE FOREMOST OBJECTIVE OF THIS MISSION (COMBINED WEIGHT OF 35 PERCENT). GIVEN ALSO THE MINIMAL INFLUENCE OF THE MISSION ON CURRENT GOV POLICIES, THE REPORTING FUNCTION OF THE EMBASSY ON POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC TRENDS OF TAKES ON GREATER IMPORTANCE. CONTACT WITH YOUTH (USING THE BROAD DEFINITION) IS OFTEN THE ONLY WAY THESE TRENDS CAN BE EXAMINED IN THE OPPRESSIVE
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POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE OF UGANDA (20 PERCENT).

2. THOSE NOT YET IN POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY (OR ACCOUNTABILITY) ARE OFTEN THE ONLY PEOPLE IN UGANDA WHO DO NOT HAVE PRECONCEIVED PREJUDICES (VOLUNTARY OR OTHERWISE) AGAINST US POLICIES. THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE THEREFORE POTENTIALLY MORE RECEPTIVE TO AN UNDERSTANDING OF OUR GOALS (15 PERCENT).

STRENGTHENING OF MODERATE AND DEMOCRATIC GROUPS, ENCOURAGING NON- IDEOLOGICAL APPROACHES, AND FOSTERING A CLIMATE CONDUCIVE TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OVERLAP WITH THE OTHER OBJECTIVES OF THE YOUTH PROGRAM AND WE HAVE ASSIGNED THEM A TOTAL WEIGHT OF 30 PERCENT, EQUALLY DIVIDED.

III. A. GIVEN THE PRESENT LOW RECEPTIVITY IN UGANDA TO MEANINGFUL CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, WE DO NOT SUGGEST CHANGES IN THE PRESENT RESOURCE ALLOCATION. TO MAINTAIN A POSTURE OF ASSISTANCE, TRAINING AND ACADEMIC PROGRAMS IN THE UNITED STATES ARE PERHAPS THE BEST USE OF OUR RESOURCES.

B. PRIVATE SECTOR RESOURCES UNDOUBTEDLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF UGANDA. THEIR IMPACT, HOWEVER, IN PROMOTING US OBJECTIVES WITH A BASICALLY ANTI- US GOVERNMENT AND THEIR ABILITY TO EVEN FUNCTION IN UGANDA AT THE PRESENT TIME IS QUESTIONABLE.

C. THERE IS NO PEACE CORPS PROGRAM AT PRESENT IN UGANDA AND THE MISSION WOULD NOT RECOMMEND ONE.

IV. B

PRESENT CONDITIONS IN UGANDA MAKE IT UNWISE IN MANY INSTANCES FOR UGANDANS TO ASSUME ANY LEADERSHIP ROLE, INSIDE OR OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT. IT CAN ALSO BE A RISKY PROPOSITION TO ASSOCIATE WITH ANY EUROPEANS OR AMERICANS. WE THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT OUR EFFORTS SHOULD BE AT A MEDIUM LEVEL FOR BEST IMPACT; NEITHER MINIMAL, THEREBY EXPRESSING A LACK OF CONCERN, NOR VERY HIGH, THUS ENDANGERING OUR CONTACTS.

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